



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5734

February Session, 2008

* _____HB05734FIN____043008_____*

**AN ACT CONCERNING NEW AND EXPANDED BUS
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES THROUGHOUT CONNECTICUT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) There is established,
2 within available budgetary resources, the "Buses for 21st Century
3 Mobility" program which shall be administered by the Department of
4 Transportation. Commencing July 1, 2008, the Department of
5 Transportation shall accept applications from transportation providers
6 and community service providers for funding to provide new and
7 expanded bus transportation services as part of the Buses for 21st
8 Century Mobility program. Such new and expanded bus
9 transportation service programs shall include, but not be limited to: (1)
10 Programs to provide transportation services for disabled citizens to
11 and from their homes for any purposes required by the Americans
12 with Disabilities Act; (2) expansion of existing services where a
13 demonstrated need has been shown; (3) programs to provide new rail
14 shuttle services to encourage the use of Metro-North Commuter
15 Railroad; (4) express commuter services; and (5) other bus
16 transportation programs designed to increase bus ridership
17 opportunities for Connecticut residents.

18 (b) Commencing July 1, 2008, the Department of Transportation
19 shall accept applications from transportation providers and

20 community service providers for funding to provide new and
21 expanded marketing programs for bus transportation services as part
22 of the Buses for 21st Century Mobility program. Such new and
23 expanded marketing programs shall include, but not be limited to: (1)
24 Web-based programs that would assist Connecticut citizens in finding
25 bus service to and from one location to another, as well as schedules
26 and routes; (2) printed advertising programs providing bus service
27 locations, schedules and routes and information concerning bus
28 transportation services in various communities; and (3) any other bus
29 transportation marketing and advertising programs that are designed
30 to increase bus ridership opportunities within Connecticut.

31 (c) Funding by the department for new and expanded bus
32 transportation services shall be allocated as follows: (1) Fifteen per cent
33 of the funds available for the Buses for 21st Century Mobility program
34 shall be assigned to projects which originate from locations within
35 each of the four counties of Hartford, Fairfield, New London and New
36 Haven; and (2) ten per cent of such available funds for the Buses for
37 21st Century Mobility program shall be assigned to projects which
38 originate at locations within each of the four counties of Litchfield,
39 Windham, Middlesex and Tolland. Services that cross regional or
40 county lines shall be assigned a proportionate share of funding
41 available to each county.

42 (d) The Department of Transportation shall consider, but is not
43 under any obligation to fund, all projects submitted for funding and
44 not fully funded as part of its process to determine how five million
45 dollars in new operating funds could be allocated for the fiscal year
46 ending June 30, 2009. The department shall not require applicants to
47 resubmit proposals for consideration, however, applicants shall be
48 notified and given the opportunity to modify such proposals. The
49 department shall determine the allocation of funds under this program
50 not later than September 30, 2008. Any funds remaining in the Buses
51 for 21st Century Mobility program at the end of a fiscal year shall not
52 lapse and shall be carried forward for the program and available for
53 expenditure for new and expanded bus transportation programs

54 during the succeeding fiscal year.

55 (e) At least seventy-five per cent of the funds available for capital
 56 expenditures may be used for the purchase of full-sized and small
 57 buses, and smaller vehicles for Americans with Disabilities Act
 58 services, services for the elderly and services for rural areas. At least
 59 one-third of the funds available for the purchase of vehicles shall be
 60 expended for vehicles to provide services in rural areas. The balance of
 61 such available funds may be used for capital expenditures associated
 62 with the provision of new services, including signage, shelters, and
 63 similar amenities. If such funds cannot be allocated in this way, they
 64 shall be available for additional vehicles.

65 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) During the fiscal year ending June 30,
 66 2009, fifteen million dollars of bond proceeds shall be made available
 67 to the Department of Transportation for the operation and
 68 administration of such program during said fiscal year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

FIN *Joint Favorable*